



From April 2020, everyone in Bavaria will be required to wear a face mask in shops and on public passenger transport. This is referred to as "face mask obligation".



Why is there a face mask obligation?

By making the wearing of face masks compulsory, the speed at which the coronavirus is spreading in the population is to be decelerated. In the first place, it is not all about one's own protection but about protecting others against droplet infection. By covering the mouth and nose, other persons can be protected against particles released during coughing, sneezing or talking.

What do we understand by a "mask"?

The face masks to be worn by the population are what is referred to as everyday masks/"community masks". They may be self-sewn of fabrics (100 % cotton, as dense a fabric as possible). They do not offer comprehensive protection.

Medical masks are primarily used in the medical sector, in hospitals and care institutions (what is referred to as FFP2/FFP3 masks).

For covering the mouth and nose briefly, a self-made paper mask (short-term single use) or a shawl or scarf may also be used.

Where and to whom does the face mask obligation apply?

The mouth and nose cover applies until further notice to customers, the persons accompanying them and to the staff in shops, shopping centres, markets as well as in buses and railways of the local public passenger transport system, in trains, taxis and in rental cars driven by chauffeurs. The obligation to wear a face mask already starts at the stops and stations and on the train platforms.

The mouth and nose cover is either to be brought along by the person himself or herself or provided by the shopkeeper based on availability.

From which age onwards is it compulsory to wear a face mask?

The face mask obligation starts to apply on the sixth birthday of a person. Younger children do not have to wear a mask.

How to use a face mask properly?

A face mask can only protect its wearer if the rules of hygiene are complied with when using it: Wash your hands thoroughly with soap before putting the mask on. The everyday mask must be placed thoroughly over your mouth, nose and cheeks so that the borders of the mask are as close as possible to the skin. While wearing the mask, you should not touch your face with your hands. When putting down the mask, do not touch the external sides of the mask because viruses may be there. Then wash your hands again and keep the mask in a place that is protected from dirt.

Textile masks are to be washed regularly after use at 60°C using washing powder. After drying, they are to be ironed preferably at 165°C minimum. Disposable masks or mouth and nose covers self-made out of paper cannot be reused.

Please remember the following: Even if you wear a mouth and nose cover, the hygiene rules and the minimum distance of 1.5m must continue to be observed.

Why does the Free State not pay for the face masks?

The Free State of Bavaria is working at full speed to provide the medical staff in the clinics, homes for the elderly and nursing homes with medical masks. Meanwhile, it has been possible to procure huge quantities, and new deliveries arrive daily.

Everyday and community masks as well as disposable masks can be procured by the citizens themselves without great effort.

What happens if I do not wear the face mask?

The police checks compliance with the face mask obligation. Those who do not comply with it run the risk of being fined!